Poverty alleviation programmes for SC/ST women in rural areas

1251. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state the details of the poverty alleviation programmes for women belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in rural areas under which loans are being advanced by banks?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (*SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON*): The scheme of Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) is exclusively designed for the poverty alleviation of women, which is a special component of the IRDP programme. Various income generating schemes under the Scheduled Castes Development Corporations and Tribal Development Corporations are linked with bank finance. Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe women are eligible to receive loans under the above schemes. There is a scheme to set up Women's Development Corporations in all the States to develop entrepreneurship among women, linked with institutional finance. Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe women are also covered under this programme.

News item captioned "Separate Ministry for handicapped urged"

1252. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news item appearing in the Indian Express of 10th April, 1989 under the heading 'Separate Ministry for handicapped urged to the effect that the Association for the Upliftment of Orthopaedically Disabled has urged the Central Government to set up a separate Ministry for the physically handicapped;

(b) whether the Association had also called for reservation of posts for the orthopaedically handicapped according to the capability of the disabled, in Group A and Group B services of the Central Government; and

(c) if the reply to parts (a) & (b) above be in the affirmative what steps Government propose to take to meet the said demands of the Association?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There is no proposal for the setting up of a separate Ministry for the physically handicapped. Presently, reservations are available for the physically disabled in Group C and D posts in the Central Government. No such reservations are there in Group A and D services of the Central Government.

TV Transmitters in the country

1253. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Parliamentary Constituencies provided with High Power/Low Power Transmitters; and

(b) by when the remaining constituencies are likely to be provided with High Power or Low Power Transmitters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. K. TEWARY): (a) and (b) 504 Parliamentary constituencies out of a total of 543 are at present covered by TV service, either wholly or partially. Whereas TV transmitters are functioning in 253 of these constituencies, 251 constituen-